

Message Text

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E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, AWACS

SUBJECT: NATO AWACS: TURKISH QUERIES

REFS: (A) ANKARA 2363 DTG 301045Z MAR 78
(B) USNATO 3465, DTG 051719Z APR 78

1. REF A REPORTS 29 MAR CONVERSATION WITH TURKISH
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OFFICIAL GUR DURING WHICH HE ASKED SEVERAL QUESTIONS
RELATING TO TURKEY'S PARTICIPATION IN NATO AWACS. PLEASE
CONVEY THE FOLLOWING AS OUR RESPONSE TO HIS QUERIES,
ALSO DRAWING AS APPROPRIATE ON REF B'S EXTREMELY HELPFUL
COMMENTS.

A. QUESTION: WOULD A FORCE OF SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT BE ABLE

TO MEET THE TURKISH PRE-CONDITION THAT "ANATOLIA" BE COMPLETELY WITHIN AWACS COVERAGE? ALTHOUGH THE AWACS PROGRAM ENVISIONS EIGHTEEN AIRCRAFT, THE "CERTAINTY" THAT ITALY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE WOULD REDUCE THE INITIAL FORCE TO SIXTEEN.

ANSWER: FIRST, WE DO NOT REGARD IT AS CERTAIN THAT ITALY WILL NOT PARTICIPATE. INDEED, WE EXPECT THAT SHE WILL, IF NOT FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PROGRAM, THEN

BY MAKING A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION SOMEWHAT LATER. FURTHERMORE, THE QUESTION OF FRENCH PARTICIPATION IS STILL OPEN. IF FRANCE MAKES A SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION EITHER AS A FULL PARTNER OR AS A SUBSCRIBER, IT WOULD COMPENSATE FOR DELAYED ITALIAN PAYMENTS. HOWEVER, EVEN ASSUMING A 16-PLANE AWACS FORCE AS THE MAXIMUM ATTAINABLE FORCE -- WHICH WE DO NOT -- WE BELIEVE TURKISH OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET. AS THE NATO PROGRAM PACKAGE DOCUMENT STATES (PO/78/18 PART 1 PARA 12): QUOTE: FROM THE TIME OF INITIAL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY UNTIL THE FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY IS ACHIEVED WITH 18 E-3AS AND 11 NIMRODS, THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC AREAS OF NATO INTEREST WHICH COULD NOT BE PROVIDED COVERAGE, SINCE TOTAL, REAL-TIME FLEXIBILITY EXISTS FOR SELECTING PATROL LOCATIONS IN ORDER TO BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PREVAILING OPERATIONAL CONDITIONS.

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THEREFORE, FOR ANY SCENARIO OR FORCE SIZE, AEW RESOURCES CAN AND WILL BE ALLOCATED TO AREAS OF GREATEST OPERATIONAL NEED AT THAT TIME. END QUOTE. MCM NO 84/77 DATED 2 DEC 1977 ALSO ADDRESSES THIS QUESTION.

B. QUESTION: WILL THE US BE ABLE TO PROVIDE SUPPLEMENTARY SUPPORT FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF AWACS TO REDUCE THE BURDEN ON TURKISH RESOURCES?

ANSWER: WE EXPECT THAT TURKEY WILL BE ABLE TO PAY HER FULL SHARE OF O AND S EXPENDITURES AS OUTLINED IN THE PACKAGE PROPOSAL NOW BEFORE GOVERNMENT (ABOUT 1.6M DOLLARS ANNUALLY ONCE THE SYSTEM IS FULLY

OPERATIONAL).

C. QUESTION: WHAT KIND OF "QUARANTEE" CAN NATO GIVE THAT GREECE WILL NOT CRIPPLE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF AWACS OPERATIONS OVER TURKEY BY REFUSING TO CROSS TELL AIR DEFENSE INFORMATION FROM AWACS OPERATING OVER GREEK TERRITORY?

ANSWER: COMMAND AND CONTROL OF THE NATO AWACS FORCE WILL BE VESTED IN SACEUR. ALL AWACS DATA WILL BE TRANSMITTED TO SUBSCRIBER NATIONS AUTOMATICALLY, THROUGH THE NADGE SYSTEM. IN ANY CASE, THERE WOULD BE DIRECT DOWN LINKS FROM AWACS TO TURKISH CONTROL SITES. NEVERTHELESS, WE UNDERSTAND CONSIDERATION OF A REVISION TO PO/78/18 IS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN BRUSSELS, DESIGNED TO TAKE MORE EXPLICITLY THE TURKISH POSITION INTO ACCOUNT.

D. QUESTION: WHEN WILL THE TURKISH PRE-CONDITION OF A FORWARD OPERATIONAL BASE (FOB) IN TURKEY BE CONFIRMED?

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ANSWER: FOB BASE SITE SURVEYS IN TURKEY HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED. FINAL DECISION ON FOB LOCATION MUST AWAIT MINISTERIAL RESOLUTION OF THE LOCATION OF THE MAIN OPERATING BASE, WHICH WE EXPECT IN MAY. FOLLOWING THAT, WE ANTICIPATE AN EARLY DECISION ON FOBS, AND WE FULLY EXPECT A TURKISH SITE WILL BE SELECTED. TURKISH REPRESENTATIVES IN BRUSSELS ARE PARTICIPATING FULLY IN THE SELECTION PROCESS AND CAN PROVIDE TIMELY INFORMATION TO ANKARA.

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